

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 23 July 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230012821

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- Correction of her military records to show she deployed to Saudi Arabia
- In effect, reconsideration of her previous request for the Southwest Asia Service Medal

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Letter of Support

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records, as were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) in Docket Number AR20200005590, on 8 January 2021.
2. The applicant states she deployed with her unit to Saudi Arabia and would like her service records to show this. She acknowledges she was disappointed by the Board's previous decision not to award her the Southwest Asia Service Medal. She later realized she could have had her former spouse provide a statement, verifying her deployment; she now submits his statement. The applicant's former spouse affirms that the applicant deployed to Saudi Arabia, between August and December 1990, and that he spoke with the applicant on a daily basis, in person and via tactical land line.
3. A review of the applicant's service record reveals the following:
 - a. On 14 April 1989, the applicant enlisted into the Regular Army for 4 years; upon completion of initial entry training and the award of military occupational specialty 96D (Imagery Analyst), orders assigned her to the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, GA, and she arrived at her new duty station, on 6 December 1989.

b. On 2 October 1990, the applicant submitted a DA Form 4187 (Personnel Action), wherein she requested her command to approve a hardship discharge, under the provisions of chapter 6 (Separation Because of Dependency or Hardship), Army Regulation (AR) 635-200 (Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel).

c. On 18 October 1990, the separation authority approved the applicant's separation request and directed her honorable release from active duty; on 29 November 1990, orders separated the applicant accordingly. Her DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), as amended by a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) dated in January 1993, shows she completed 1 year, 7 months, and 16 days of her 4-year enlistment contract. The report additionally reflected the following:

- Item 12f (Foreign Service) – "00/00/00"
- Item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) – National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon
- Item 18 (Remarks) – no entries indicating a deployment to Saudi Arabia

d. The applicant's available service record is void of any documentation indicating she deployed to Saudi Arabia.

e. The Defense Manpower Data Center compiled a database showing Soldiers who either deployed and/or were scheduled to deploy in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm; this roster lists the applicant as deploying or scheduled to deploy, on 1 October 1990, and redeploying, on 31 October 1990.

f. On 4 March 2020, the applicant petitioned the Board, requesting the award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

(1) The applicant argued that she had served in Saudi Arabia as a member of the 24th Infantry Division; she and the unit arrived in Saudi Arabia in mid-August 1990, and, after a while, her command sent her back home because there was no one to care for her 2-month old child.

(2) On 8 January 2021, the Board considered the applicant's request and voted to deny relief. The Board noted the record showed the applicant was scheduled to deploy, but there was no proof that she actually arrived in Saudi Arabia with her unit. "In the absence of additional evidence such as an award, deployment/redeployment order, travel voucher, or Leave and Earnings Statement confirming she deployed to Saudi Arabia, the Board determined the Southwest Asia Service Medal should not be added to her record at this time."

4. On 16 July 2024, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) reviewed the applicant's Master Military Pay Account (MMPA) and was unable to verify any foreign service completed by the applicant while she was on active duty service. DFAS is considered the authoritative source when determining foreign service credit based on a Soldier's receipt of Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay and Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (HF/IDP and CZTE).

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The evidence shows after completion of training, the applicant was assigned to Fort Stewart, GA. The Defense Manpower Data Center compiled a database showing Soldiers who either deployed and/or were scheduled to deploy in support of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm; this roster lists the applicant as deploying (or scheduled to deploy), on 1 October 1990, and redeploying, on 31 October 1990. The Board did not find the listing of her name as sufficient to show she actually deployed. In the absence of additional documentary evidence such as an award, deployment/redeployment order, travel voucher, or Leave and Earnings Statement confirming receipt of hostile fire pay and/or she deployed to Saudi Arabia, the Board determined there is insufficient evidence to list her deployment and/or award Southwest Asia Service Medal.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
■	■	■	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis to amend the decision of the ABCMR set forth in Docket Number AR20200005590, on 8 January 2021.

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I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, prescribed policies and procedures for the completion of the DD Form 214.

a. Item 12f (Foreign Service) was to list the total amount of foreign service completed during the period of the report.

b. Item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) was to show all awards.

c. Effective 30 September 2000, the Army issued a revision to AR 635-5 that added the requirement to show deployments in item 18 (Remarks); DD Form 214 preparers were to add the following statement: "SERVICE IN (NAME OF COUNTRY DEPLOYED) FROM (inclusive dates for example, YYYYMMDD – YYYYMMDD)."

2. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states the Southwest Asia Service Medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Southwest Asia and contiguous waters or airspace there over, on or after 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995. A bronze service star is authorized for wear with this medal for participation in each credited campaign. Approved designated campaigns are:

- Defense of Saudi Arabia (2 August 1990 to 16 January 1991)
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait (17 January to 11 April 1991)
- Cease-Fire Campaign (12 April 1991 to 30 November 1995)

3. AR 15-185 (ABCMR), currently in effect, states:

a. The ABCMR decides cases on the evidence of record; it is not an investigative body. Additionally, the ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity (i.e., the documents in an applicant's service records are accepted as true and accurate, barring compelling evidence to the contrary).

b. The applicant bears the burden of proving the existence of an error or injustice by presenting a preponderance of evidence, meaning the applicant's evidence is sufficient for the Board to conclude that there is a greater than 50-50 chance what he/she claims is verifiably correct.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//